NEWS
WINTER 2024

FGUA WINS STATEWIDE WATER CONSERVATION AWARD

FGUA, partnering with Pasco County Utilities, was proud to receive an "Honorable Mention" from the Florida Section of the American Works Association (FSAWWA) during its Annual Water Conservation Program Awards. The utilities received the recognition in the "Program Element—Single Program Highlight category" for its Annual Water Awareness Poster Contest. This recognition highlights the 15th year of the successful partnership between FGUA and Pasco County Utilities, which focuses on educating children about water awareness.

The program, which aims to raise awareness about the importance of water conservation, involves numerous elementary schools, teachers, and students across the region. In total, over 1,200 students participated in last year's contest, engaging with the program's themes through a variety of fun educational activities.

This year's contest has officially launched. Pasco County teachers can register their classes and students for the contest through the program's website. The contest not only provides a way to make learning about water conservation fun but also gives students a chance to win prizes.

To learn more, visit www.watercontest.org.

4TH ANNUAL LEHIGH ACRES RAIN BARREL PAINTING CONTEST IS LOOKING FOR SENIORS WHO LOVE TO PAINT

If you live in Lehigh Acres and are a senior who loves to paint, then we want you to participate in the 4th Annual Lehigh Acres Rain Barrel Painting Contest.

The purpose of the program is to promote water conservation while simultaneously providing art therapy to senior citizens within the community. But this program doesn't stop there...money raised during this contest is then used to help struggling Lehigh Acres seniors pay their water utility bills. It's a win, win, win!

The contest begins on April 21, 2025 – which coincides with the same week as Earth Day. The barrels will be painted April 21-24 and the winners of the contest will be announced at a luncheon on April 24 at the Lehigh Acres Senior Center. Cash prizes will be awarded to the Top 3 winners! Once the contest concludes, the painted rain barrels will be auctioned off with all proceeds raised going towards assisting seniors who are struggling with their water utility bills through a program administered by Lehigh Community Services.

There are only 20 rain barrels available for this year's contest, so register now!

Local seniors wishing to participate in the program or businesses who would like to be a sponsor can contact: Donna Lizotte, Community Service Representative on behalf of the FGUA office: (239) 368-1615, Ext. 1211 or email donna.lizotte@fgua.com.

ATTENTION ALL SCIENCE AND ART LOVING KIDS IN PASCO COUNTY....THIS PROGRAM IS FOR YOU!

FGUA and Pasco County Utilities, in cooperation with Pasco County Schools, presents the 16th Annual Water Awareness Poster Contest. This STEAM program educates students on a variety of important water facts, while also showcasing their artistic skills and creativity. This contest gives Pasco's young residents a new way to learn about science, water and the environment.

The program focuses on several important water facts, including:

- How clean and reclaimed water is provided to each community and their homes
- What a watershed is and why it is important to the planet
- Why water conservation is so important
- Tips on conserving water in and around their own home

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will receive a prize package from local sponsors, and all children who submit a poster receive a certificate of participation, a free Chick-Fil-A Kid's Meal and a free Cold Stone Creamery ice cream.

All winning posters will be displayed in Pasco County Government Centers, as well as other locations around the county. They will also be showcased online at WaterContest.org.

For more information, please visit www.WaterContest.org or contact us directly at patti.clark@fgua.com

SCHEDULED IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS THE STATE

- FGUA is undertaking an expansion of wastewater system treatment capacity for its Lehigh Acres Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The project includes converting the existing decommissioned membrane bioreactor system (MBR) and ancillary system to a new Kubota MBR system. The project is out to bid, with bids scheduled to be received in early 2025.
- The Seven Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant in New Port Richey is undergoing rehabilitation, with the replacement of the existing grit removal system with a new Pista Grit Removal system. The platform for the grit removal system has been erected, and installation will occur in the first quarter of 2025.
- In North Fort Myers, FGUA is replacing the existing sewer lift station near the Del Prado Water Reclamation Facility. The project includes building a new inline booster pump station and replacing the existing submersible pump lift station. Permits were submitted, and construction activity will begin pending the issuance of permits.
- Upgrades to the Jungle Den Lift Station in Volusia County will begin in spring 2025, which include 1,600 feet of new gravity sewer mains, 1,400 feet of service laterals, and various appurtenances.